

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Sub B1> 1. A patch bag comprising a heat-shrinkable patch adhered to a heat-shrinkable bag, the heat-shrinkable patch comprising a first heat-shrinkable film and the heat-shrinkable bag comprising a second heat-shrinkable film, the first heat-shrinkable film comprising homogeneous ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer.

2. The patch bag according to claim 1, further comprising an adhesive layer between the first heat-shrinkable film and the second heat-shrinkable film.

3. The patch bag according to claim 1, wherein the first film comprises a first homogeneous ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer, and the second film comprises a second homogeneous ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer.

4. The patch bag according to claim 3, wherein the first homogeneous ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer has a density of from about 0.87 to 0.94 g/cc, and the second homogeneous ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer has a density of from about 0.87 to 0.94 g/cc.

Sub A' 5. The patch bag according to claim 1, wherein the first homogeneous ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer has a density of from about 0.87 to 0.94 g/cc.

6. The patch bag according to claim 1, wherein the homogeneous ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer comprises long chain branched homogeneous ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer.

7. The patch bag according to claim 6, wherein the long chain branched homogeneous ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer has a density of from about 0.87 to 0.94 g/cc.

Sub B2 > 8. The heat-shrinkable patch bag according to claim 1, wherein the first heat-shrinkable film has a free shrink, at 185°F, of from about 10 to 100 percent.

5 E 9. The heat-shrinkable patch bag according to claim 8, wherein the first heat-shrinkable film has a free shrink, at 185°F, of from about 40 to 120 percent of a free shrink, at 185°F, of the second heat-shrinkable film.

10 10. The heat-shrinkable patch bag according to claim 9, wherein the first heat-shrinkable film has a free shrink, at 185°F, of from about 40 to 100 percent of a free shrink, at 185°F, of the second heat-shrinkable film.

15 11. The heat-shrinkable patch bag according to claim 1, wherein the first heat-shrinkable film is a monolayer film.

12. The heat-shrinkable patch bag according to claim 1, wherein the first heat-shrinkable film is a multilayer film.

20 13. The heat-shrinkable patch bag according to claim 12, wherein the first heat-shrinkable film comprises three layers.

13
14. The heat-shrinkable patch bag according to claim 12,
25 wherein the homogeneous ethylene/alpha-olefin is present in the first heat-shrinkable film in an amount of from about 5 to 100 weight percent, based on the weight of the first heat-shrinkable film.

30

¹⁴
~~13~~. The heat-shrinkable patch bag according to claim 12, wherein the first heat-shrinkable film comprises two outer layers and two inner layers, the two outer layers being substantially identical in chemical composition and thickness, and the two inner layers being substantially identical in chemical composition and thickness.

¹⁵
~~16~~. The heat-shrinkable patch bag according to claim ~~15~~¹⁴, wherein each of the two outer layers comprises the homogeneous ethylene/alpha-olefin in an amount of from about 1 to 100 weight percent, based on the weight of the outer layers.

¹⁶
~~17~~. The heat-shrinkable patch bag according to claim ~~16~~¹⁴, wherein each of the two inner layers comprises the homogeneous ethylene/alpha-olefin in an amount of from about 1 to 100 weight percent, based on the weight of the inner layers.

¹⁷
~~18~~. The heat-shrinkable patch bag according to claim ~~17~~¹⁶, wherein each of the two outer layers is substantially free of homogeneous ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer.

¹⁸
~~19~~. The heat-shrinkable patch bag according to claim ~~18~~¹⁵, wherein the homogeneous ethylene/alpha-olefin in the two outer layers has a density of from about 0.87 to 0.94 g/cc.

¹⁹
~~20~~. The heat-shrinkable patch bag according to claim ~~19~~¹⁴, wherein the inner layers comprise at least one member selected from the group consisting of ethylene/vinyl ester copolymer, ethylene/vinyl acid copolymer, ionomer, and homogeneous ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer having a density of from about 0.87 to 0.91 g/cc.

²⁰

¹⁹
~~21~~. The heat-shrinkable patch bag according to claim ~~20~~,
wherein the ethylene/vinyl ester copolymer comprises at least one
member selected from the group consisting of ethylene/methyl
acrylate copolymer, and ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymer, and the
5 ethylene/vinyl acid copolymer comprises ethylene/methacrylic acid
copolymer.

²¹

¹⁴
~~22~~. The heat-shrinkable patch bag according to claim ~~15~~,
wherein the outer layers comprise from about 10 to 80 weight
10 percent of the weight of the first heat-shrinkable film.

²²
~~23~~

The heat-shrinkable patch bag according to claim 1,
wherein the second heat-shrinkable film is a multilayer film.

²³
~~24~~

15 The heat-shrinkable patch bag according to claim ²²
~~23~~,
wherein the second heat-shrinkable film comprises an inner O₂-
barrier layer.

20

Sub AC >
25. The heat-shrinkable patch bag according to claim 23,
wherein the bag comprising the second heat-shrinkable film
comprises:

25

an outside layer comprising at least one member selected from
the group consisting of ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer having a
density of from about 0.85 to 0.95, propylene/ethylene copolymer,
polyamide, ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymer, ethylene/methyl
acrylate copolymer, and ethylene/butyl acrylate copolymer;

30

a core O₂ barrier layer comprising at least one member
selected from the group consisting of ethylene/vinyl alcohol
copolymer, polyvinyl chloride, polyvinylidene chloride, polyamide,
polyester, polyacrylonitrile; and

an inside layer comprising at least one member selected from
the group consisting of thermoplastic polyolefin, thermoplastic
polyamide, thermoplastic polyester, and thermoplastic polyvinyl

chloride.

²⁵

²⁶ 28. The patch bag according to claim 1, wherein the patch bag comprises two patches adhered to the bag.

5

²⁶

²⁷ 27. The patch bag according to claim 1, wherein the homogeneous ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer is a reaction product of a polymerization utilizing a metallocene catalyst.

10

²⁸ 28. A packaged product, comprising:

SUB B3
a package including a patch bag comprising a heat-shrinkable patch adhered to a heat-shrinkable bag, the heat-shrinkable patch comprising a first heat-shrinkable film and the heat-shrinkable bag comprising a second heat-shrinkable film, the first heat-shrinkable film comprising a homogeneous ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer; and
15 a meat product in the package, the meat product comprising bone.

²⁸

²⁷

20

²⁹ 29. The packaged product according to claim ²⁸ 28, wherein the meat product comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of ham, spareribs, picnic, back rib, short loin, short rib, whole turkey, pork loin.

25

add B4

add C1

add E1

add F1